GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3236
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2000
REQUEST FROM STATE GOVERNMENTS TO START NEW TV CHANNELS
MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT;T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Union Government have received any requests from the StateGovernments for starting some new TV/Akashwani Channels/Stations in the country during the last three years;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the number out of these proposed channels which are likely to be reserved for regional languages; and

(c) The action taken in this regard, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF TH MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. Requests have been received from various State Governments from time to time for setting up of new AIR/Doordarshan Stations/Kendras.Even though, no specific request has been received for starting additional DD channels in regional languages, Doordarshan is presently operating 10 (ten) Regional Language SatelliteChannels in various regional languages. Out of these, duration of transmission in respect of Malayalam, Tamil, Bengali, Telugu, Kannada, Marathi, Gujrati and Punjabi have been recently increased to 24 hours. As regards Akashwani, there is no policy to have exclusive channels for regional languages, though programmes relayed from all Akashwani Kendras have adequate local/regional content.

(c): It is the endeavour of the Government to provide Radio/TV coverage to all uncoveredpockets/areas of the country in a phased manner depending on availability of resources and inter-se priorities. Request received from sources are kept in view while deciding locations of new AIR/DD centres.